THE METHODIST CHURCH HOME FOR AGED

in the CITY *of* NEW YORK

1850 - 1950

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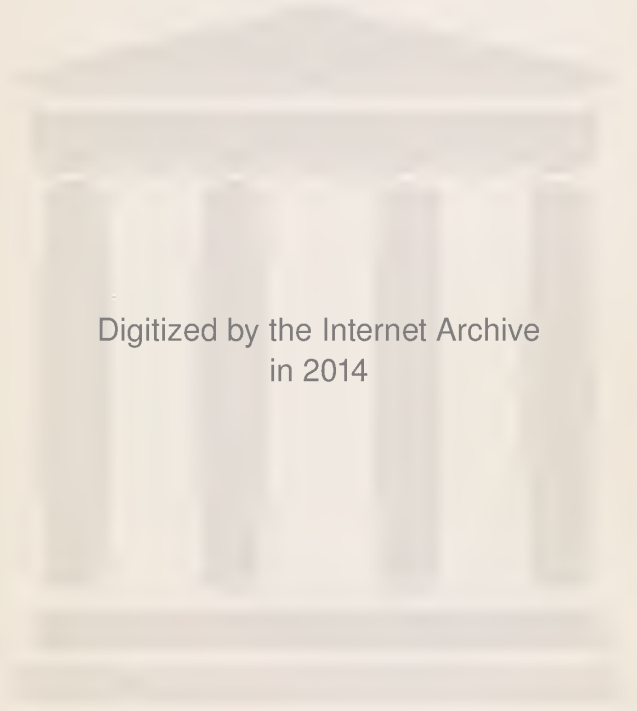
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Mrs. Mary W. Mason
First Directress
1851 — 1858

The Methodist Church Home for Aged

in the City of New York

1850 — 1950

The history of the Methodist Church Home in the city of New York from 1850 to 1950— founded on Faith, developed through the power of Prayer, and served by all Methodists of the counties of New York, Bronx and Westchester

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Compiled and written by

Mrs. Frank Newell McClure

HISTORIAN OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

Index

I. History of the Methodist Church Home, 1850–1950

II. New York Methodist Episcopal Churches of 1850

III. Personality Sketches

IV. Board of Direction — 1850

V. Board of Managers — 1950

Introduction

In 1766 a group of six followers of John Wesley met in the hired house of Philip Embury, a carpenter, for a preaching service. In less than a year the increased attendance made it necessary to rent a larger meeting place which was a rigging loft in Horse and Cart Street (a section of what is now William Street – #120) between John and Fulton Streets. Humble as these quarters were great numbers gathered to hear the Word preached by the gentle Embury and the dynamic Captain Thomas Webb, who was a soldier of the British Army, and as lay preacher, a soldier of the Cross.

Preaching services were held at 6 a. m. Sundays as well as in the evening, because the Methodists of that day regarded themselves as a "Society" of the Church of England and were careful not to interfere with the regular services of the Church. By 1769 a site was leased on John Street, between Nassau and William, from the estate of Rev. Henry Barclay, second rector of Trinity

Church at Wall Street and Broadway. A chapel was erected on this property, the ground was purchased about two years later and today the third building still stands, known throughout the world as the historic John Street Church.

From that time on the Methodist denomination grew, until in 1850 there were twenty-three Methodist Episcopal churches in the city of New York. . . . . .

CHAPTER ONE

March 4th, 1850, was a bright spring day that had been ushered in with sharp winds and chill air; the refuse in the cobbled gutters of Broadway whirled into cluttered heaps and scattered under the narrow wooden bridges of the main crosswalks. Pedestrians along lower Broadway walked close to the shuttered buildings that they might escape the onslaughts of the Battery gale which promised no moderation until after sunset.

At the home of Mrs. Eliza A. Farr, 459 Broadway, a group of women, representing the Methodist Episcopal churches of New York, were gathered in her high ceilinged parlor, and the shrieking winds outside drew their minds even more seriously to the object of the meeting — the establishment of shelter for the aged and indigent of their churches from such elements, with provision of necessary food and medical aid. Some of their members were known to be destitute of home or friends and no longer able to support themselves due to the

infirmities of their years; their only resort must be a city charitable institution and at the end a pauper's grave.

The consideration of happier surroundings was now being discussed, with Dr. Nathaniel Bangs, New York presiding elder, as chairman, and Rev. George Lane, of the Methodist Book Concern, presenting the plans of the women for the proposed Home. The result of the meeting was the appointment of seven women to confer with the pastors and officials of the twenty-three existing churches to ascertain how many would require such an institution, together with facts and figures for the probable cost of such an undertaking.

New York, in this fiftieth year of the Nineteenth Century, had begun its slow march northward on the island of Manhattan, with the residential sections occupying Washington and Union Square areas. Church spires surmounted the scene and the cultural highlight of the year had been Jenny Lind's first concert in America, at Castle Garden, under the management of the famous Phineas T. Barnum.

Few of the Methodist Episcopal churches bore much resemblance to the first edifices with their white-washed walls and sanded floors. When the Greene Street Church

installed not only carpet but a marble topped communion table these furnishings were considered by the highly vocal minority "a stumbling block and offense." The law of an earlier Discipline which ruled that men and women must sit apart in all the churches had also been abolished, thus eliminating separate entrance doors to the sanctuary. The simple garb of the pioneer Methodist women of coal-scuttle bonnets and dresses of black or drab colors, without ornament or trimmings, were things of the past and, although there was little ostentation, the ladies might now compete with their more worldly minded sisters in attractive fashions.

With the broadening of church rulings there was also an increased zeal in missionary enterprises, and this movement to provide care for aged members was indicative of a religion that lived its Faith through kindly works.

At the second meeting, also held at Mrs. Farr's home (March 26th), the Committee of Seven — who became the first executive officers — reported that each church in the city had at least three or four members whose circumstances made them eligible for the contemplated institution and the cost for this accommodation would be

one dollar per week for each inmate. This Committee then drew up a Constitution and made plans to collect funds for the project.

A meeting was held in the Mission Rooms, the Constitution adopted by the assembled preachers and lay officials, and a public meeting announced for May 31st in Mulberry Street Church, near Bleecker Street, where an appeal for the support of the undertaking was read to a crowded audience. In the latter part of July an election of seventy female Managers was held in the same Church and on August 4th, in accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution, the Managers met at Greene Street Church, between Broome and Spring, and elected by ballot a "Board of Direction" consisting of six Directresses, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary and a Corresponding Secretary — "each of whom shall hold office for one year, being eligible to re-election." It was also decided that an Advisory Committee of gentlemen, one from each Church, be invited to serve in that capacity.

Systematically the women planned the campaign for raising funds and finding a suitable building. In the early autumn a house was rented for $480.00 per year at 16 Horatio Street. This four story and basement resi-

dence, with backyard grass plot and flower beds and a lone ginko tree flanking the street curb, was the scene of great activity as the women cleaned and furnished it for the opening *November 19th, 1850.* On that historic day twenty-three elderly women entered the doors and became the special "family" of their churches.

Individual cash donations poured into the treasury in amounts from fifty cents to twenty dollars, with a total of $1,064.00, while the various churches furnished needed articles such as feather beds and bolsters, lamps and oil cans, iron 'spiders' and copper-bottomed boilers, Britania ware, rush bottomed chairs, gaily striped rag carpet, clocks and clothing, with a total cash value of $661.56. A staff of a matron and four servants had been engaged to run the house and arrangements were made for weekly preaching and prayer services by the pastors of the city. Jane Street Church contributed rented pews for those who could attend outside services. In several of the churches pews were located at each side of the pulpit rail for the prominent church leaders and the very aged. Their hearty responses during the sermon earned the section the name of "The Amen Corner."

At this point we should be able to say that the sincere

and unselfish efforts of the Board of Managers met with complete co-operation by the guests of the Home, but human nature ever runs true to form, and we find a Secretary writing during the first year that their aged "were saints of the Church but, alas, not always *saintly*." There was Hannah F. who loved to hoard and was found to be the possessor of twenty-seven skirt drapes, hooped skirts, flounced skirts, chemises, thirty pairs of stockings in various stages of dis-repair, a dozen pairs of shoes, soft and hard soap, peppered meats, bottles, crackers, etc. Her indignation at their confiscation was a problem that took several sessions with the Directresses to get under control.

As may be expected, there were also "some murmurings and discontent;" such were usually referred to the churches for settlement, but once, in righteous zeal, a Trustee of one of the larger churches gallantly offered to find a new place of abode for a complaining lady, but after locating and re-locating her four different times, he sheepishly decided that the Managers were wiser in handling the temperamental aged. Patience and affection were paramount, the records showing unwillingness to be unnecessarily strict. The old people were Family and this was their home!

CHAPTER TWO

As the interest in the Home grew many were the much needed contributions, ranging from "a silver Communion Service from an unknown friend" to "a lot in Green-Wood Cemetery at a cost of $110.00" from another anonymous donor, who later enclosed same with trees, marble pillars and placed a costly monument in the center. The latter gift was made as a Memorial to two of the oldest inmates: Mrs. Sarah Wallace Kairns, who died at the age of one hundred and seventeen years, and Mrs. Elizabeth Cairns who died in the hundredth year of her age. The second lady had been a member of the original Wesleyan Society in London and numbered John Wesley and Dr. Coke among her intimate friends. The organization of the Willet Street Church resulted from Class Meetings held in her home in New York in 1819.

The State Senate and Assembly passed an Act of Incorporation June 19, 1851, under the title "The Ladies' Union Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church

in the City of New York" and within another year it was apparent that larger quarters must be provided to care for the many applications on file. After consultation with the Advisory Board it was decided to erect a building suitable for such an institution and in the early part of 1853 the Building Committee entered upon the task of selecting the new site.

Lots were purchased at 61st Street and Broadway, but were later sold as the section promised heavy traffic that would not prove comfortable for the Family. Mr. Benjamin F. Howe, of Greene Street Church, offered the Society three lots at 97th Street near Fifth Avenue, with the privilege of purchasing three or more at $600.00 each — but a few months later it was discovered that the New York Legislature expected to enclose this particular property as part of a public park. Again lots were purchased that ran from 142d Street to 143d Street, between Tenth Avenue and Kingsbridge Road, but these were also sold when the society received the generous offer of Mr. William Seaman, member of Allen Street Church, of a gift of two lots on West 42d Street near Eighth Avenue.

Many were the meetings held with architects and builders but these women had confidence in their ability

to handle such an important undertaking which is naively expressed in the Minutes of a Building Committee meeting: "On motion of Mrs. Farr, seconded by Mrs. Stout, it was decided that the clause 'to consult with the Advisory Committee' inserted under 'Building Committee' in the Second Annual Report be considered *not compulsory!*" . . . The completed new building, which cost $30,000.00 was opened for occupancy in April, 1857, after dedication by Bishop Janes, assisted by Dr. Bangs, Bishop Morris and the great Methodist historian, Dr. J. B. Wakeley.

Forty-second Street had been developing since 1825 from an ambling cowpath to a wide thoroughfare, with business activity confined east of Fifth Avenue. Sheep and cattle being driven from Weehawken Ferry on the North River to slaughter houses on the east side of the city was a common sight, and even as late as 1870 goats gamboled freely over the area where the Hotel Commodore now stands. The famous Crystal Palace, built of iron and glass in the form of a Greek Cross, covered ground now given to Bryant Park, and the Murray Hill Reservoir, which distributed water from the Croton Acqueduct to the city through great iron pipes, was one

of the landmarks of Fifth Avenue — now the site of the New York Public Library.

The block on which the new Home was located was quietly residential and great shade trees provided a suburban appearance in sharp contrast to the commercial activity eastward. The new building, 225 West 42d Street, was of brick with a front of brown stone; it was four stories high including basement. Besides accommodations for seventy-five old people in individual rooms and housekeeping rooms, there was also a Chapel and an Infirmary.

Ownership of property and better facilities for the care of the Family was an important step, but the annual expense was a constant anxiety for it was now costing *two* dollars per week for each person. Funds for current expenses depended solely upon voluntary contributions but the Panic of 1857 was sweeping the country and had resulted in a general suspension of specie payments. Widespread want and discontent ensued and the unemployed marched through the streets calling for bread and work. The City Corporation voted $250,000 to give work on the new Central Park to the most needy, but at times the militia had to be called out to protect lives and property

from the threats of disorderly mobs. By degrees the distress lessened and in December New York banks resumed specie payment.

From the foregoing the difficulties of raising funds can be well understood, and every means was used from a great Fair at Niblo's Garden to the reading of a dramatic appeal to the congregations of all the Methodist Episcopal churches. "Shall the Home be given up? Shall we say to our aged 'Depart': the Church of your choice, the Church you loved from your earliest years, the Church God has so highly honored and to whom He has given wealth to be used for His glory, bids us say to you that they can care for you no longer?" But the Managers of the Board *believed* and continued to venture, determined to leave no opportunity untried.

At this time Mrs. Mary W. Mason, first Directress, submitted her resignation due to failing health and Mrs. R. H. Tittle was elected to that office. At the annual meeting held November 4th, 1859, a revised Constitution was adopted, which changed the commencement of the current years of the Society from the first of November to that of the calendar year, requiring all business of the Institution to close on the first of January.

CHAPTER THREE

By 1861 the country had entered upon Civil War — that tragic struggle between the States. The Methodist Church was especially conscious of this division for in 1844 their last united General Conference had been held. As early as 1784 the early Methodists wrote into the conclusions of their first Conference the necessity of "taking some effectual method to extirpate slavery from among us."

With the growth of the Abolition movement in the North (mainly in New England and New York) the question increased in importance until the break between the Methodists of the Northern and Southern sections came with startling suddenness. As a thread of history that weaves through the pattern of a great Ch[illegible], a digested account is presented herewith:

Bishop James O. Andrew, through a second marriage with a lady who possessed slaves, received the brunt of criticism in this session resulting in a Resolution pushed

through by Northern delegates that Bishop Andrew should "desist from holding the Episcopal office so long as this 'impediment' remains." The strange note in that incident was that at the time there were two hundred traveling preachers holding sixteen hundred slaves; about a thousand local preachers holding ten thousand and about twenty-five thousand church members holding over two hundred thousand more. The Southerners rightly felt if the Bishop was to be punished the others should be punished with him, but the issue was held solely to the question of a *Bishop* being a slave-holder.

Bishop Soule, of Maine, used all his ability as a noted legalist to withstand the action leveled against Bishop Andrew, for the latter lived in Georgia, which did not permit the freeing of slaves, so he was clearly within the letter of the Church law; but the efforts of Bishop Soule were in vain, and when the Southern delegates declared they could no longer remain in a Church which would deprive a Bishop of his rights of office solely on the slavery question, this native son of Maine marched out of the General Conference of 1844, at the head of the Southern delegates, to lead them in establishing the Methodist Episcopal Church South. In 1940 the Northern and

Southern Churches were re-united as THE METHODIST CHURCH.

During 1864 Mr. Samuel Halstead and his brother Schureman of the Advisory Board of the Home were devoting their efforts to securing contributions that would help remove the burdening debt of $23,000. The women of the churches worked at fairs, donation parties and similar events, raising sufficient money to remove their floating debt and reduced the funded debt to $8,000. At the Board meeting of June 1, 1865, when the Treasurer, Mrs. William B. Thompson, asked if the receipts of the Strawberry Festival should be applied to the interest of the funded debt, Mr. Samuel Halstead answered by presenting a receipt in full from the President of the Greenwich Savings Bank for the payment of the entire claim, both principal and interest, amounting to $8,240. Nor was this all: these worthy men gave authority to have the Home put in thorough repair and painted throughout, which was done at a cost of $2,606 — using the total raised by Messrs. Halstead of $10,846.

A few of the donors to this sum, whose names are still remembered in New York annals of Church and City,

1850 — Methodist Episcopal Church Home — 1857
16 Horatio Street

A Wisteria Walk, Horatio Street (Near Home for Aged. 1850)

1857 — Methodist Episcopal Church Home — 1885
225 West 42nd Street

Lower Broadway in 1850

included: Peter Cooper, A. T. Stewart, J. B. and W. W. Cornell, John Romer, George J. Hamilton, Daniel Drew, H. P. Leake, S. and M. A. Van Benschoten, A. H. Brummel, Harper Brothers, Dr. C. C. North and many others.

From 1850 to 1867 the Home catered solely to women and now the Board purchased an adjoining house, increasing the number of accommodations to one hundred and providing a home for men also. The many fairs, concerts, etc., which were being held to raise funds required such frequent ticket selling that this work was becoming a heavy burden to the Managers, and somewhat of an annoyance to those constantly approached. It was decided in 1870 to concentrate on one large annual Fair at Niblo's resulting in the amazing net total receipts of $14,567.28! For six successive years financial assistance had been received from the New York State Legislature, as this Home was relieving the City of considerable expense. In the first two years of this period $4,000 per year was received and $5,000 per year for the following four . . . thus did these untiring women turn to every source for help to carry on the care of their aged.

By 1875 the summary of the Home history was: "In twenty-five years of existence we have cared for two hun-

dred and forty-two persons, the property is free of all encumbrance, current expenses are all paid, and we feel that a broad foundation has been firmly laid upon which we expect the Methodist Episcopal Church of New York to rear a superstructure which will be an honor to them and a comfort to our aged people."

CHAPTER FOUR

At one of the large Donation Parties held annually for the benefit of the Home, an observer was heard to comment "The work here I should call "love in action" and because of the church-wide interest, in 1877 it was thought advisable to change the name from "The Ladies' Union Aid Society" to "The Methodist Episcopal Church Home" and application was made to the Legislature for permission. This was granted and in acquiring this change the Board was deeply indebted to Messrs. Kelly and McCrae for the efforts put forth through their legal channels. They were also instrumental in obtaining the Amendment to the Charter whereby the titles of the executive officers were changed from "Directress" to "President" and "Vice-President." The services of Mr. Richard B. Kelly and Mr. McCrae were always rendered gratuitously.

The following year the question of still larger quarters arose for it had become necessary to place two inmates

in a room, hardly conducive to harmony or comfort. Many on the Board were timid about another realty venture for money was scarce, and the country slowly recovering from the depression of 1873 when Jay Cooke and Company precipitated a panic in Wall Street that spread nation-wide disaster. The Sixth Avenue Elevated Road was now running from Rector Street to Central Park and as the Home on 42d Street was but two blocks west, the majority felt it was time to sell and move farther north where there would be no encroachment of business concerns. The Real Estate Committee had under consideration various parcels of property and learning that the Legislature had donated, or rather leased, for the nominal sum of one dollar per annum plots of ground for the use of other benevolent societies, the Committee asked if our Society could also receive a like appropriation. The grant had been made to us March 3, 1871. The twenty-fourth Annual Report tells the story concisely:

"At this time there was much excitement in the city because of the actions of some corrupt officials (the infamous Tweed Ring) and *before* a proper report could be made by the Committee to the Board of Managers, a strong opposition developed, as it was supposed that

the grant originated and had been made through a channel of corruption. This was a mistaken idea. About 1850 the laying out of Central Park rendered Hamilton Park wholly unnecessary, consequently the State Legislature passed an Act empowering the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to donate this Square to benevolent bodies for benevolent purposes. The opposition of Methodist leaders to our acceptance was, at this time, so strong that further effort to conclude the matter was suspended temporarily — but when more fully understood the objectors looked upon it with much favor. But delays are dangerous. While there are now large and flourishing institutions erected on this property which have been brought into existence since our Society started, we are without the lots upon which we fondly hoped to erect an institution which might be sufficient to serve the churches for generations to come. *Since that time we have never received an appropriation from that source.*"

Upon the retirement of Mrs. R. H. Tittle as President of the Board an election was held and in January 1881, Mrs. William L. Harris, wife of the Bishop of the New York area, was installed in that office.

By 1884 eight lots were purchased on Amsterdam Ave-

nue between 92d and 93d Streets, and the estimated cost of building was $130,000. The Board was urged to raise at least $50,000 before starting to build, and of this amount the members of the Advisory Board pledged for themselves $21,000. The sale of the 42d Street property brought $80,000, which total warranted proceeding with the undertaking.

The cornerstone was laid November 4th, 1885, by Bishop Harris, with addresses by Bishop Bowman and General Clinton B. Fisk. In October, 1886, the completed and occupied building was thus described by the visiting Physician, Dr. George Scott: "It is unsurpassed by any institution of its kind in the city. This edifice will stand for time to come as a monument of your good deeds and untiring efforts in the great work of charity. . . . Its very location is suggestive of health, being on high and rocky ground overlooking the Hudson River. *The grand view for miles around can never be obstructed to any serious extent by the improvements which may, some day, be made in the neighborhood!*"

While the Home was in 42d Street the Reading Circle had been organized, with specific duties of reading to members of the Family whose sight was failing, and pro-

viding entertainment and special treats. The members of the Circle made five and six hundred visits a year and, when the new building opened, furnished a special room for use as a Sitting Room for the elderly guests. There were one hundred and twenty-two sleeping rooms on the three upper floors while a well equipped Infirmary occupied the fourth. Among the many gifts received at this time was a silver Communion Service from Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Sparks, and a music box which are in use at this writing.

Within two years of the opening, death came to Bishop Harris as well as Mr. J. B. Cornell and that tireless worker, Mr. Samuel Halstead — all of the Advisory Board. Change of residence then necessitated the resignation of Mrs. Harris, and Mrs. Lemuel Bangs assumed the office of President in January, 1888.

Despite changes in regime successful management continued, which was accomplished by wise handling of funds and careful budgeting. We quote from an early report as an illustration: "As you see we have new carpet in the halls, chapel and two rooms. We have needed them for two years but our Treasurer said "No carpets until we have the money in hand." So we tripped as lightly

as we could over the bare floors until the necessary $800 was contributed!"

The Nineteenth Century drew to a close with the city claiming a population of 3,437,202; there were four hundred and ninety-two churches (sixty-six were Methodist Episcopal) and three hundred benevolent and charitable organizations and institutions, *not* including public charities. The Methodist Home for the Aged, the first of its kind to be established in the United States, had blazed a trail of charitable aid that was being emulated on all sides, opening the heart of a great city to the needs of those less fortunate than their fellows . . . and it was the only Home for the Aged which asked no admission fee!

Mrs. R. H. Tittle
1858-1881

Mrs. John Romer

Samuel Halstead

Mrs. William B. Thompson, *Treasurer*
1850 — 1866

CHAPTER FIVE

Our country had returned to peaceful pursuits after the Spanish American War and as we entered the Twentieth Century the fiftieth and Golden Jubilee was celebrated in conjunction with the annual bazaar. The event was recognized by the Empress of Germany by the gift of a vase, sent through the German Consul and by him presented to the Home. This gracious gesture was in appreciation of the benefits conferred by the Home upon the needy of the German Methodist Episcopal Churches. A set of Resolutions was drawn up by the President, Mrs. Lemuel Bangs, and transmitted by the Consul to Her Majesty, expressing the hope that "the friendly relations between the German Empire and our country might never be disturbed!"

With current expenses now reaching $30,000 per year the work of the women could never slacken, and each year, though apparently routine, occurred the little personal dramas of old folk appealing for shelter — the wait

for a vacant room when its occupant went on to greater glory — the thrill of all concerned as each annual report told to the assembled church people this story of labor, loyalty and love.

A new president was in the Chair by 1907, Mrs. Mary Knox Robinson of Bedford Street Church, the vacancy occurring through the death of Mrs. Lemuel Bangs, who had been connected with the Board since its organization in 1850, holding every office but that of Treasurer, and the honored President for twenty years.

During this period it was most evident that the Board had so systematized the running of the Home that the great events of the times caused no very noticeable difference in the routine of management. Still another financial panic had been weathered (1907) and a Border War had been fought with Mexico. By 1916 we, as a nation, were pledged as an Ally in the first World War against Germany. . . . Inventions and innovations had been startingly frequent; wireless telegraphy was invented by Marconi, horse-drawn vehicles were rapidly being replaced by motor cars and buses; the first tunnel under the Hudson River connecting Manhattan with New Jersey was in operation, and skyscrapers like the

Flatiron and Singer buildings were awesome sights to tourists.

Despite the scourge of Spanish influenza in 1918 no such plague touched the Family, and during the shortages of coal and food imposed through the drama of war, our old people seemed to thrive, though sacrificing like all others. The Managers never neglected their responsibilities at the Home and in addition loyally worked in canteens, rolled bandages for the Red Cross, knitted and sewed and supported their churches. In 1919 Mrs. G. Waldo Smith of Bayside (L. I.) Church was elected President, bringing to the office marked executive ability.

At the close of World War I the Methodist churches entered upon a Centenary campaign, planned as a program of missionary expansion. The cost of the five years work from 1919 was to be more than one hundred million dollars, for a world destroyed in battle must be re-built, and what better builder than the Church of God? The program was not entirely successful for much that was planned and pledged was found impossible of fulfillment in the postwar depression, but the germ of this thought was destined to grow anew after a second World War again emphasized the need of nations for spiritual guidance.

CHAPTER SIX

The year 1925 was dawning — and seventy-five years of service would be celebrated of a Home that had stood between the Methodist aged poor and public charitable institutions. The fear of becoming an inmate of the latter refuge, with its inevitable association with the irreligious and profane — its humiliations untold and its pauper grave — had been eliminated. Instead, our church members had been given a home where, as honored guests of the Church of God, they passed the remainder of their days in peaceful enjoyment of the Church of their choice. No entrance fee was required; their *need* was their strongest plea.

There had been many changes through the years. Many of the Home's loyal and generous friends were gone; families had moved to the suburbs and transferred their interests to local charities; churches had closed; the times were different. Problems in running the Home increased and fifty years of occupation had left its mark on the

Amsterdam Avenue property. Constant and costly repairs kept increasing the yearly cost of upkeep, and by 1925 it was plain to all that a new site and building were necessary; from this need evolved the plans for the Diamond Jubilee.

Preparations for this campaign of fund raising were halted and saddened by the loss of three valued executives. The sudden passing of Mrs. G. Waldo Smith left the office of President to be filled by Mrs. Alexander Carmichel, then first Vice-President as well as Corresponding Secretary. Shortly thereafter Mrs. Elias S. Osbon, second Vice-President and for many years inspiring leader of the Reading Circle, was called to a Higher Home — and six months after assuming the presidency Mrs. Carmichel passed on from an illness of but a few days.

The loss of these three gifted women was a stunning shock to the entire Board, but the work must go on, and Mrs. William J. Stitt, fourth Vice-President, was urged to accept the office of President. She consented with great reluctance, yet it was soon evident that this choice was wise, for she proved a most competent and far-seeing executive.

Plans were now in motion for "The Diamond Jubilee Endowment Fund for the Methodist Episcopal Church Home for Old People" which was pledged to raise $500,000. The complete list of executive chairmen of committees included:

Chairman of the Diamond Jubilee,	George B. Hodgman
Honorary Chairman of the Diamond Jubilee,	Bishop Luther B. Wilson
Vice Chairman of the Diamond Jubilee,	Mrs. William J. Stitt
Chairman of Organization,	Mrs. Samuel Williams
Chairman of Special Gifts,	Mr. William J. Stitt
Chairmen of Special Lists,	Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer and Mrs. Millard L. Robinson
Chairman of Publicity,	Mrs. Carl H. Fowler
Chairman of Speakers,	Rev. Wallace MacMullen, D.D.

By January, 1927, it was announced that $309,280.99 had been received, which amount with the money from the sale of the Amsterdam Avenue property, assured completion of plans for a new building. We are indebted to Mr. William Cumming, Treasurer of the Building Committee, for a summary of events leading to the building of the present Home at 244th Street and Spuyten Duyvil Parkway. This statement was read by

Mr. Cumming at the annual meeting of 1946 and is quoted in part:

"... As we concluded the Diamond Jubilee Fund campaign in 1927, it became evident that the old Home property on the block front of Amsterdam Avenue between 92d and 93d Streets was becoming so valuable that it should be sold and a new location found for a new building. A special committee from the Advisory Board selected the new site (4499 Spuyten Duyvil Parkway) and it was duly purchased for $75,000. Its area is equal to twenty-six city lots and it is surrounded on three sides by the highway, and on the fourth by a little park. This Building Committee was composed of Mr. William J. Stitt, chairman, Mr. Henry Pfeiffer, Mr. Frederick Pflomm, Dr. Arthur H. Merritt, Mrs. Samuel Williams, Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer and myself.

They engaged as architect, Mr. Julius Gregory, and in due time the contract was let to Mr. John Lowry. Mr. Lowry was also builder of some of the great structures in Radio City. Of this committee only Dr. Merritt and myself are still living. (In 1949 Mr. Cumming celebrated his ninety-fifth birthday.)

The ground and the building cost approximately

$750,000 and this amount was not fully paid until December, 1945, when the last of our mortgage note was fully satisfied. A mortgage was placed on the old property for $450,000. A purchaser was found who would buy the property subject to the mortgage for a price of $800,000; he was to pay $200,000 in cash and give us a second mortgage for $150,000. Thus the old property was sold for $800,000.

Special gifts were received from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer of $50,000 toward the cost of a chapel: from Mrs. Samuel Bowne $10,000 to furnish the main floors; $5,000 from Mr. and Mrs. C. Edgar Anderson for the sun parlors on the front of the building and Mr. and Mrs. John I. Romer for the fourth floor solarium. Mr. Ellis L. Phillips gave $3,000 and Mr. Frank M. Firor furnished the refrigerating equipment of the kitchen at his own expense as a contribution, with an estimated cost of $7,000. Many others contributed sums of $200 to $1,000 for furnishings and Memorial Rooms. There were gratefully received a large number of gifts and allowances which did not go through the Treasurer's books, but which must be included in any review of the full cost of the building.

Mrs. Bishop William L. Harris
1881 — 1888

Mrs. Lemuel Bangs, *President*
1888 — 1907

Member of the Board
1850 — 1907

Mrs. Mary Knox Robinson
1907-1919

1885 — Methodist Episcopal Church Home — 1929
Amsterdam Avenue, 92nd to 93rd Street

Reference is made to the 1929 Annual Report of the Home for a complete record of all gifts and services in the comprehensive report of Mrs. Carl H. Fowler, then corresponding secretary. The Memorial tablet in the entrance hallway contains the names of those whose gifts amounted to one thousand dollars or more. A complete report of the Treasurer of the Building Committee appears in the annual reports of 1929 and 1930.

On December 15, 1928, the cornerstone was laid by Bishop Francis J. McConnell and the Family moved into the new Home September 23d, 1929." . . . . . .

CHAPTER SEVEN

The announcement that the Home would move to a new site in the Riverdale section of the Bronx was not met with much enthusiasm by the Family. They were very vocal in expressing their disapproval of going so far from the busy locale around Amsterdam Avenue and 93d Street. "Who wants to end their days in the country"? sniffed one outspoken lady. "I like to go over to the Five and Ten Cent Store and browse around, then take a walk down the Avenues and look in shop windows. What can I do up there? Just look at a lot of trees!"

Nor were they keen about parting with their collections of impedimenta. It had been decided by the Executive Committee that the Managers from each Church would be responsible for packing trunks and over-night bags, and such clothing or possessions that were not in the best condition, or would be of little use, must be discarded. This was a wise ruling yet hardly popular. Until one has entered upon a task of this kind it is impossible

to imagine the accumulations over a period of years, and how difficult it makes the work of keeping rooms attractive and sanitary. The desire to paste or tack pictures and news illustrations on the walls of the rooms had reached an all-time high and could not be repeated in the new building. This called forth a few more objections, and many of the Board still remember the affectionate cajoling exercised to accomplish the task of packing and eliminating, with a minimum of friction.

One dear lady, like Hannah F. of Horatio Street days, was the possessor of innumerable skirts, corset covers, petticoats, shirt waists, etc., and as her trunk was being packed she stood over that particular Manager, who was a timid soul, thumping a blackthorn stick in emphasis until the packing was done to her satisfaction. The last item packed was a large picture of her late husband. Imagine the dismay of the packer when she later learned that a kindly minister had called, been persuaded to re-open the trunk and add a heavy tailor's iron! When the trunks arrived at the Home each Manager completed her assignment by unpacking and hanging clothing in the roomy closets, as well as arranging articles in the bureaus. By great good luck the old lady's iron and her

husband's picture had not met in transit — but she always claimed she never again "knew where to put her hand on anything!"

Mrs. Stitt realized what the change of environment would mean to the old people, and her plan to have each one receive personal attention eased their regret at leaving the old building. Besides the packing and unpacking, each new room must be in perfect order for the resident. Beds were made up with new linens and attractive spreads, rugs were laid, crisply laundered scarfs covered the bureaus and all through the house great clusters of fresh flowers had been generously provided by Mrs. John I. Romer.

In the early afternoon of September 23d, 1929, private cars donated by Managers and friends arrived with the Family and their over-night bags: those too ill or feeble to travel by car were taken up in ambulances procured by Rev. A. Hamilton Nesbitt, pastor of St. Luke's Methodist Church and Chaplain of the New York Police Department. Vans for transportation of furniture and trunks were provided by Mr. Herman C. Dochtermann, of Tremont Church, and Mr. Charles R. Saul, of St. Paul's.

Managers and executive officers were on hand to personally conduct each arrival to her room, which contained metal furniture in walnut design, consisting of bed, bureau, desk and desk chair, a somnol and a large easy chair of wicker upholstered in cretonne. Later they came down to the cheerful sunny dining room for a collation of ice cream and cake, where Mrs. Stitt greeted them with a brief but affectionate speech. . . . Privileged indeed were the women of the Board who took part in the activities that week under the able leadership of Mrs. Samuel Williams.

CHAPTER EIGHT

By the end of October the Family and staff had become adjusted to the new surroundings, but financial clouds were again looming over the world, and it was not long before their potentialities were being realized. The sale of the old Home could not be carried through by the purchaser, and the Board found that the Treasury would not only lack the anticipated funds, but it was forced to take back the unoccupied property, which necessitated payment of heavy taxes to the City of New York.

During those first years of the Great Depression the Board of Managers listened to the Treasurer's report each month with sinking hearts, but they went right ahead with the traditional work of soliciting subscriptions, holding the annual fairs, strawberry festivals and linen showers. It was miraculous how money came in — and in the meantime Dr. Millard L. Robinson worked unceasingly to obtain a lease or sale of the downtown building. The realty market had reached a desperate low

and it was not until 1939 that he succeeded in leasing the Amsterdam Avenue property for a period of twenty-one years (and the privilege of renewal), with a yearly rental of $7,500.00.

This is the time to tell of the generous aid received from those great Methodist philanthropists, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer. The Home income from invested funds had greatly decreased, and many of our most generous contributors were unable to help as they had in former years. At a meeting of the Executives to discuss the financial situation Mrs. Pfeiffer quietly made the following statement: "Mr. Pfeiffer and I have been thinking about the large amount of interest money payable to the Bank each year, and after talking it over he suggested that we and Mr. Gustave Pfeiffer (his brother) make a loan of $100,000 at the rate of 3 per cent interest to the Home. The Committee can then propose to the Bank that the Home pay off that amount on the mortgage, provided the Bank will reduce its rate of interest from 5½ per cent to 3 per cent." The matter was placed in the hands of the Finance Committee and the desired arrangement completed with the Bank. When the time came for the payment of the $100,000 Mrs. Pfeiffer again

overwhelmed the Executive Committee by stating that when she went to get the money Mr. Gustave Pfeiffer suggested that instead they make a loan of $50,000 and a *gift* of $50,000. Thus did God raise up friends for this Home in its time of greatest need!

At the end of 1933 Mrs. William J. Stitt resigned as President, but consenting to serve as President Emeritus. As rest was imperative for improvement in her health the Board accepted the resignation, with keen regret. She had given unstinting service and the great accomplishments of her regime are a tribute to her administrative ability and vision.

The unanimous choice of the Board for Mrs. Stitt's successor was Mrs. Carl H. Fowler, whose able work as Corresponding Secretary promised continued efficiency in the office of President. The years of Mrs. Fowler's incumbency were, perhaps, the very darkest in several decades. The depression had left its mark on people in every walk of life and by 1940 war again threatened the entire world. In this same year the unification of the Methodist Episcopal Church North and the Methodist Episcopal Church South was an accomplished fact, and on April 11, 1940, Governor Herbert Lehman signed a

Mrs. G. Waldo Smith
1919 — 1925

Mrs. Madelaine S. Rogers, *Treasurer*
1884 — 1917

Mrs. Alexander Carmichel
1925 —

Mrs. William J. Stitt
1926 — 1933

Bill that the various religious groups of this denomination in the State of New York would hereafter be described as of "The Methodist Church." Similar Bills were signed in all the states and territories of the United States.

Our President Emeritus, Mrs. William J. Stitt, who had been ill for sometime, left us June 18, 1944. Although she had been unable to meet with the Board her interest in the work never flagged. She had endowed a bed in the Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn costing $5,000, not only to benefit the Family, but as an appreciative tribute of the care always given our elderly people when hospitalization is required. Her floral tribute for each one passing on to "that Far Country" was never missing at a Family funeral service, and her final legacy to the Home insures continuance of any special requirement for the entire group. The personal touch that accompanied her gifts and service endeared her to the Family for twenty-eight years.

At the annual meeting of 1946, Mrs. Millard Lyman Robinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Stitt, was elected to the Presidency of the Board when Mrs. Fowler, because of ill health submitted her resigna-

tion. Although Mrs. Fowler's tenure of thirteen years office had been in a troubled era, she guided the management of the Home with serenity and courage. As President Emeritus she rarely misses a meeting and her gifted pen continues to link many interested friends to the activities of the Home.

CHAPTER NINE

The generous bequest in 1947 of Miss Mary L. Walker, a former Vice-President of the Board and member of Calvary Methodist Church, enabled the Home to meet operating costs and take care of renewal of furnishings and equipment which were badly in need of repair and replacement. The Finance Committee was able to dispose of some of the realty in this bequest and to re-invest the funds in Government Bonds and other high type securities which will enable the Home to secure more certain income during coming years. . . . Miss Walker also made a specific bequest of an automobile, establishing a permanent fund for upkeep and replacement, in order that the Family may be assured of daily drives during summer months.

Many members of the Family do exquisite hand-work for their booth at the annual Fairs and to keep the "Show-Case" supplied with knitted articles, smocked childrens' dresses, quilts, etc. Their exhibit of handcraft at the first

New York Hobby Show for older people earned them *all* the blue ribbons! . . . Entertainment is provided the year round by the churches, with the Christmas season the highlight; motion pictures with sound, concerts, plays, special parties and dinners — but the best are the plays which the Family stage themselves, for many of our elderly guests have a marked histrionic talent.

The religious services each Sunday in the Pfeiffer Chapel are conducted by the Methodist ministers of the New York District in turn, and the mid-week prayer meetings by a selected committee of six Managers.

One hundred years ago it cost $52 per year to care for each member, with a total cost of operation amounting to $2,891.91; in 1949 the cost of support for every man and woman who enters this institution is over $1,500 each, the total cost of maintenance in 1949 amounting to $138,281.49. It is always a matter of amazement to many that the original ruling of "no admission charge" still prevails — but section four of Article Three of the By-Laws reads: "All property, real or personal, including insurance, Old Age assistance, pensions, etc., owned or granted to Guests of the Home at the time of their entrance into the Home, or of which they shall hereafter

become possessed of or entitled to *shall be and become the property of the Home.*"

Human nature being what it is, there have been frequent instances of close kin proving anxious and willing to have their aged enter the Home, but wishing to retain for themselves any insurance, small savings or jewelry treasures. It is easily understood why this cannot be permitted, but whatever sum *is* acquired by the Home through the applicant, said applicant receives twice a year 3 per cent interest on same. To those whose unfortunate circumstances bring them to us with no assets whatever, the Home gives a minimum monthly allowance.

The mistaken conception of Homes for elderly people is a place depressed in appearance and grey in atmosphere — but the Home of which we write is highly representative of any Home in the area. The building has not only architectural beauty but includes every convenience from private rooms for individuals and double rooms for couples; lounges and sun rooms, a beautiful chapel, spacious sunny dining room and perfectly equipped kitchen where attractive and nourishing meals are prepared under the direction of a trained dietitian. On the top floor is the Infirmary, staffed by registered nurses and a visiting physician.

The problem of caring for the aged cannot be termed economic — it is definitely one that can be best served by the various religious bodies. There is much greater need for Homes of this type today, for the housing situation has created an unusual worry for those growing old. Privacy and quiet are necessary requisites in comfortable living for elderly folk; families who would be most happy to have their parents live with them are handicapped by the growth of the family and inability to find satisfactory living quarters within their salary budget. . . . It isn't much fun for Grandma to share a room with active small fry, nor are extra cots in the living room a proper resting place for aging bones. The high cost of food today creates prohibitive prices for "boarding-out," so a Home such as the Methodists in the City of New York have established is an answer to many a prayer.

For one hundred years unmatched service has been given those who wear "the silvery livery of advanced age," thereby fulfilling the promise of the Psalmist:

> "I have been young and
> Now am old;
> Yet have I not seen the
> Righteous forsaken
> Nor His seed begging bread."

Board of Direction — 1850

1st Directress—Mrs. M. W. Mason, Greene Street Church

2nd Directress—Mrs. E. A. Farr, Greene Street Church

3rd Directress—Mrs. John Harper, Greene Street Church

4th Directress—Mrs. Henry Moore, Allen Street Church

5th Directress—Mrs. Benj. F. Howe, Greene Street Church

6th Directress—Mrs. Wm. Graham, Seventh Street Church

Treasurer—Mrs. Wm. B. Thompson, Mulberry Street Church

Recording Secretary—Mrs. John A. Kennedy, Duane Street Church

Assistant Recording Secretary—
Mrs. John D. Adams, Eighteenth Street Church

Corresponding Secretary—Miss Mary Bangs, Mulberry Street Church

Managers

John Street Church—Mrs. R. C. Bull, 74 Beekman Street, Mrs. A. Flower, 164 Greenwich Street

Duane Street Church—Wm. B. Corning, 101 Hudson Street; A. H. Shultz, 29 Harrison Street; A. E. Oakley, 526 Hudson Street

Vestry Street Church—Mrs. Wm. B. Skidmore, 135 Hudson Street; Mrs. John Hall, 308 Ninth Street; Mrs. John Romer, 416 Greenwich Street

Greene Street Church—Mrs. C. R. Duel, 341 Broadway; Mrs. Noah Worrall, 28 Elm Street; Mrs. John M. Howe, 227 Grand Street; Mrs. John A. Harriot, 54 Crosby Street; Mrs. Chas. C. North, 12 Second Street; Miss Eveline Kennedy, 54 Beach Street

Bedford Street Church—Mrs. P. E. Coon, 42 Carmine Street; Mrs. Charles Hall, 98 Amos; Mrs. Rev. N. Bigelow, 13 Commerce Street; Mrs. C. C. Leigh, 232 Bleecker Street

Mulberry Street Church—Mrs. Dr. G. Peck, 106 Wooster Street; Mrs. John B. Edwards, 197 Mulberry Street; Mrs. Conklin, 45 Second Street; Mrs. Wendell, Broadway near 4th Street; Mrs. Lemuel Bangs, 34 Seventh Street; Miss M. Martin, 431 Broome Street

Sullivan Street Church—Mrs. J. G. Hadden, 32 Leroy Street; Mrs. R. H. Tittle, 13 Grove Street; Mrs. S. Gedney, 100 Sullivan Street; Mrs. O. Loveland, 69 Bedford Street

EIGHTEENTH STREET CHURCH—Mrs. J. Hutchinson, 101 Ninth Avenue; Miss M. Hammond, 200 Twenty-second Street

JANE STREET CHURCH—Mrs. J. Montgomery, 22 Jane Street; Mrs. D. Demarest, 38 Eighth Avenue; Mrs. J. L. Griffen, 174 West 14th Street

THIRTIETH STREET CHURCH—Mrs. Rev. B. Griffen, 30th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenue; Mrs. J. Longking, 30th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenue; Mrs. S. G. Goodenough, 30th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenue; Mrs. William Williams, 241 West 21st Street

FORTY-FIRST STREET CHURCH—Mrs. E. W. Fox, 241 West 21st Street

FIFTIETH STREET CHURCH—Mrs. J. W. Ramsey, West 58th Street

CHERRY STREET CHURCH—Mrs. Z. C. Inslee, 59 Gouvernor Street

MADISON STREET CHURCH—Mrs. J. Barker, 351 Monroe Street; Mrs. Chambers, Madison Street; Mrs. S. Watkins, 196 East Broadway; Mrs. S. Barker, 71 Orchard Street

FORSYTH STREET CHURCH—Mrs. E. Wheeler, 60 Orchard Street; Mrs. John Pease, 80 Clinton; Mrs. E. C. Barker, 174 Bowery; Miss Hester Truslow, 144 Madison Street

WILLET STREET CHURCH—Mrs. E. Mather, Miss M. Johnson

NORFOLK STREET CHURCH—Mrs. Dr. C. Palmer, Rivington & Eldridge Sts.

ALLEN STREET CHURCH—Mrs. A. V. Stout, 95 Rivington Street; Mrs. S. Halstead, 115 Ludlow Street; Mrs. Sm'l R. Spelman, 82 First Street; Mrs. J. Purdy, 117 Orchard Street; Mrs. J. L. Stewart, 81 Seventh Street

SECOND STREET CHURCH—Mrs. Young, Mrs. Little

SECOND STREET GERMAN CHURCH—Mrs. J. Moadinger, 586 Grand Street

SEVENTH STREET CHURCH—Mrs. Robert Stead, 23 Eleventh Street; Mrs. Jacob Aimes, 73 Second Avenue; Mrs. Rich. A Reading, 119 First Avenue; Mrs. William Ludlum, 70 Seventh Avenue

NINTH STREET CHURCH—Mrs. John Devoe; Mrs. W. T. Mackrell, 169 Avenue B

TWENTY-SEVENTH STREET CHURCH—Mrs. John Stephenson, 47 East 27th Street; Mrs. Timothy Howe, 416 Third Avenue; Mrs. A. Brower, 45 Third Avenue; Mrs. John W. Oliver, 30th Street near Madison Avenue; Miss C. Irvin, Thirty-second Street

NOTE: Subscriptions and donations will be received by Bishop Janes, Rev. George Lane, and Dr. L. Scott, Methodist Book Concern, Mulberry Street; or by any of the above named Managers.

Methodist Church Home 4499 Spuyten Duyvil Parkway, New York 63, N. Y.

The Family

Mrs. Carl H. Fowler
1933 — 1946

Mrs. Millard Lyman Robinson
1946 —

Advisory Committee — 1850

BISHOP EDMUND S. JANES

Presiding Elders—REV. N. BANGS, D.D.; REV. B. GRIFFEN

Methodist Book-Room—REV. GEORGE LANE; DR. L. SCOTT

JOHN STREET CHURCH—Mr. R. C. Bull, 74 Beekman Street

DUANE STREET CHURCH—J. B. Oakley, 526 Hudson Street; Fletcher Burgess

VESTRY STREET CHURCH—Mr. Francis Hall, 25 Brevoort Place

BEDFORD STREET CHURCH—Mr. C. C. Leigh, 232 Bleecker Street

GREEN STREET CHURCH—B. F. Howe, 432 Broadway

MULBERRY STREET CHURCH—Mr. Ralph Mead, 108 Second Avenue; J. B. Edwards, 197 Mulberry Street

SULLIVAN STREET CHURCH—Mr. O. Loveland, 69 Bedford Street

JANE STREET CHURCH—Mr. H. Dubois, 88 Jane Street

EIGHTEENTH STREET CHURCH—Mr. B. C. Wandell, 92 Ninth Avenue

THIRTIETH STREET CHURCH—Rev. J. Longking, 30th Street

FIFTIETH STREET CHURCH—Mr. P. W. Rumsey, 58th Street

FORSYTH STREET CHURCH—Mr. J. Barker

ALLEN STREET CHURCH—Mr. J. Falsoner, 9 Third Street

WILLET STREET CHURCH—Dr. Throckmorton, 229 East Broadway

MADISON STREET CHURCH—Mr. S. Barker, 71 Orchard Street

SECOND STREET CHURCH—Mr. Little

NORFOLK STREET CHURCH—Dr. W. C. Palmer, 54 Rivington Street

SEVENTH STREET CHURCH—Mr. R. A. Reading, 119 First Avenue

NINTH STREET CHURCH—Mr. W. T. Mackrell, 169 Avenue B

27TH STREET CHURCH—Mr. John Stephenson, 47 East 27th Street

2ND STREET GERMAN CHURCH—Mr. J. Moadinger, 586 Grand Street

New York Methodist Episcopal Churches of 1850

The first Methodists coming to America brought with them the love of the "meeting house" and chapels arose a few years after the first sermons were preached. Plain churches were desired and the Methodist DISCIPLINE of 1784 stated: "Let all our chapels be built plain and decent: but not more expensive than is absolutely unavoidable: otherwise the necessity of raising money will make rich men necessary to us. But if so we must be dependent upon them; yes, and governed by them. And then farewell to the Methodist Discipline, if not doctrine too." Methodism was for the poor people! "Free grace and free sittings" was the proud boast. The seats were free; free from upholstery, free from paint, free from backs!

By 1850 the various branches of the American Methodist Episcopal Church had 13,280 churches — and larger and more ornate houses of worship dotted the city of New York. The twenty-three churches that supported the new Methodist Episcopal Home for the Aged included:

DUANE STREET CHURCH

Shortly before the Conference of 1797 a site was selected for a new church on Barley Street between Hudson and Greenwich. It functioned under the names "North Church," "North River Church" and "Hudson Church." The street later was named "Duane" in honor of James Duane, member of the first Congress

and first Mayor of New York, under State Government, 1783-1788. The church then became known as "Duane Street Church," an appropriate change as James Duane had been a contributor to the building of the first John Street Church, although a vestryman of Episcopal Trinity at Wall Street. . . . The majority of the membership of Duane were of Huguenot ancestry and some from the Isle of Guernsey. The services were frequently conducted in French. . . . The original property was sold in 1863 and a new edifice erected at Hudson and Spring Streets. In 1874 there was a merger with Greene Street Church but when the latter transferred to Washington Square this was dissolved. . . . After the Holland Tunnel entrance was built the property was sold and the membership transferred to Metropolitan Temple.

VESTRY STREET CHURCH

At a Trustees' Meeting in 1830 Rev. Heman Bangs, younger brother of Dr. Nathaniel Bangs, presented a plan for building needed churches in the city with "slips" or pews that might be sold or rented, reserving, however, a certain number of free seats. By 1833 the "First Wesleyan Chapel" was being erected on leased ground in Vestry Street near Greenwich. This was the first pewed Methodist Church and the name was later changed to "Vestry Street Church." In 1856 the name was again changed to "Central Church" and when a new one was built on the west side of Seventh Avenue below 14th Street, the name again changed to "METROPOLITAN TEMPLE." This property burned March 7, 1928. A new church was erected at 13th Street and Seventh Avenue and dedicated October 23, 1932. . . . There had been a consolidation with Bedford Street Church in 1913, with Duane Street in 1939 and with 18th Street Church in 1945. . . . The present name is METROPOLITAN-DUANE Methodist Church. The Jane Street Church records are deposited with this Church.

GREENE STREET CHURCH

In February, 1831, Broadway Hall between Howard and Grand Streets was hired for worship. The congregation purchased land in Mulberry Street, which was later sold to the Methodist Book Concern and occupied by them for fifty years. Land was then purchased in Greene Street between Broome and Spring and a brick church built. . . . In 1874 they united with Duane Street and in 1876 sold the property and bought the Reformed Church on the *east* side of Washington Square, at which time the union with Duane was voided and the new church known as "Asbury." . . . The memorable General Conference of 1844 was held in this church and Mrs. Mary W. Mason and Mrs. Eliza A. Farr were once among its distinguished members.

MULBERRY STREET CHURCH

In 1834 Mr. Ezekiel J. Moore, a noted merchant and member of Seventh Street Church, suggested the purchase of land in Mulberry Street near Bleecker as a good location for a church. A committee was appointed to secure the property and erect a building after the design of the "First Wesleyan Chapel" on Vestry Street. It was dedicated March 5th, 1835, the incorporation title being "The Second Wesleyan Chapel of New York City." . . . It was one of the first churches of the denomination to be carpeted, the pews were cushioned and there was also a pulpit of mahogany. . . . By 1850 the church was so financially embarrassed the mortgage was foreclosed and sold. Mr. Ralph Mead bought it and the congregation paid him $25,000 for the property. The church was then re-organized under the name "The Mulberry Street M. E. Church." . . . In 1857 a new church was built at 22d Street and Fourth Avenue and the name again changed to "St. Paul's M. E. Church." . . . About 1887 the new Madison Avenue Church drew heavily upon St. Paul's congregation, the property at 22d Street was sold and a new building erected at 86th Street and West End Avenue in 1895. . . . When St. Andrew's Church on West 76th Street was sold for a

Synagogue in 1937 the congregation united with St. Paul's and the name became "CHURCH OF ST. PAUL AND ST. ANDREW."

BEDFORD STREET CHURCH

As Bishop Asbury passed through New York in 1810 he was pleased to note that two new churches had been built — Bedford Street and Allen Street. Bedford Street had originated several years before when there were only a few scattered dwellings north of Canal Street and West of Broadway. . . . Five lots had been bought on the corner of Bedford and Morton Streets and in 1810 the church was built. . . . This church had two entrance doors and two aisles, as there was a dividing line through the middle of the church in seating the sexes. The Discipline then stated "Let the men and women sit apart in all our churches." Husband and wife could walk together to church but must then separate, enter different doors, get seats in far different parts of the house, and be seriously annoyed trying to find each other at the close of the services. This rule of separation was carried so far that one church is known to have had the door-yard in front divided by a fence. . . . In 1840 a new edifice was built costing $20,000 and in 1874 a parsonage was added. The Bedford Street property was sold and the congregation united with Metropolitan Temple in 1913.

ALLEN STREET CHURCH

Allen Street congregation was a natural growth from Forsyth Street church: the Allen Street neighborhood was becoming densely populated and Bowery Village and Forsyth Street were difficult to reach so land was procured in Fourth (Allen) Street between Delancy and Rivington and the church built in 1811. A new building was dedicated in 1837 and among the prominent laymen of the congregation were the Halstead Brothers, Henry Moore, William Seaman and many others. This property was sold in 1888 to a Jewish congregation.

SULLIVAN STREET CHURCH

A branch of the "Methodist Society" organized by Rev. W. M. Stillwell in 1820, built a house of worship on Sullivan Street near Spring, which opened in 1824. The "Stillwellites' Secession" from John Street Church is noted in a letter from Mrs. Bishop Clark: "We have a tree of Methodism; the tiny branch representing the Stillwellites bears the record "Organized by William M. Stillwell in 1817 in New York. Cause: the difference of opinion in regard to the furnishing of old John Street Church." (The date '1817' is an error.) . . . There was another division in 1826 and the Sullivan Street Church became independent and finally united with the Protestant Methodist Church. In 1842 all but twenty of the members again united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. . . . Land was bought in Fourth Street between Sixth Avenue and Washington Square and a new church costing $75,000 dedicated June 10, 1860, was named the "WASHINGTON SQUARE M. E. CHURCH" which still serves the Greenwich Village area.

JANE STREET CHURCH

By 1844 a church seemed necessary between Bedford and 18th Street Churches; lots were purchased on the north side of Jane Street between Eighth and Greenwich Avenues and the brick edifice was dedicated May 10, 1846. . . . A declining congregation in the early part of the present century resulted in the property being placed under the City Society by whom it was eventually sold and the records deposited with Metropolitan Temple in 1920.

EIGHTEENTH STREET CHURCH

The first meetings of this congregation were held in a schoolroom in west 20th Street and in 1828 a Class was formed in the home of Richard Winthrop on the south side of 18th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues; one of the first leaders of this Class was Rev. Stephen Merritt. . . . In 1830 a small frame chapel

was erected in 20th Street west of Eighth Avenue called "The Upper Greenwich M. E. Church." . . . By 1836 a brick church was completed on the north side of 18th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues — and although this was the youngest church of the denomination in New York, it was made the custodian of the old John Street Charter and Church Seal. . . . This property was sold by the New York City Society in 1945 and the remaining membership joined Metropolitan-Duane Church, November 19, 1945.

THIRTIETH STREET (Chelsea) CHURCH

In 1838 the Rev. Joseph Longking secured a basement on Tenth Avenue between 26th and 27th Streets in order that Methodist services might be provided for that part of the city west of Eighth Avenue. This property was next door to the residence of Jerry Walker and rented for $60 per year. A Sunday School was organized, the teachers being principally young people from Vestry and Greene Street Churches; there were also prayer and class meetings and preaching on Sunday evenings. Jerry Walker and James Scott, members of 18th Street Church, were active co-laborers in this work. . . . In 1841 the Mission moved to the second story of a building on the southwest corner of 27th Street and Ninth Avenue, the lower part of which was a carpenter shop. . . . In 1843 the Society incorporated under the name "The Chelsea M. E. Church of the City of New York" and a lot on the north side of 24th Street, east of Ninth Avenue was leased at $56 per year. A frame building with basement was built and was dedicated January 5, 1844; this was a temporary building as it was planned to locate permanently five or six blocks north, but the region called "Strawberry Hill" occupying ground from 26th to 33d Streets had not been graded. . . . By 1864 lots were secured on the north side of 30th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues — the cornerstone was laid June 29, 1848 and the basement opened January 21, 1849; on July 18th the audience room was dedicated. . . . In 1854 about one hundred members left and organized "Trinity Church" in 34th

Street because of an unfortunate controversy over the renting of pews. By 1873 the Trinity congregation abandoned this enterprise giving the property to the New York City Society. NOTE: This Trinity Church is not to be confused with the Trinity M. E. Church of East 118th Street. . . . When the property of Chelsea Church was included in the extension of the Pennsylvania Railroad holdings, the congregation purchased lots at 178th Street and Ft. Washington Avenue. A basement church functioned there from 1907 until the building of George Washington Bridge, which included the Chelsea site, and necessitated removal to property purchased on Broadway between 173d and 174th Streets. Dedication of the basement auditorium took place Easter Sunday, 1929, and the name changed to "Broadway Temple.". . . Washington Heights Church, in existence since 1867, merged with Broadway Temple April 8th, 1942 and the name is now "Broadway Temple-Washington Heights Methodist Church.". . . The old church property on West 30th Street has been the publishing plant of "The Rural New Yorker," a bi-monthly paper for farming folk, since 1913.

FORTY-THIRD STREET CHURCH

It is recorded that "Rev. Ira Ferris established preaching services in 1830 at Brother William R. White's home between the large glass factory and the old chemical works on the Eighth Avenue." By 1833 worship was conducted in a reconstructed building on lots purchased on the north side of 43d Street between Broadway and Eighth Avenue. . . . By 1850 an imposing brick building with brownstone trim was dedicated by Bishop Janes. . . . In 1894, merging with St. John's M. E. Church, a new building was erected on the north side of 48th Street between Eighth Avenue and Broadway and named "Union M. E. Church." . . . In 1948 the Union Church building with two adjoining houses was sold by the New York City Society to Leone's Restaurant for a reported price of $300,000. All church records and the few remaining members were transferred to Washington Square Church on West Fourth Street.

Service in the Pfeiffer Chapel

The Croquet Game

The Family Goes for a Ride

The Dining Room

FIFTIETH STREET CHURCH

This Church first appears in Conference Minutes as the "Fiftieth Street Mission" organized for Sunday School and preaching in connection with the Twenty-Seventh Street Church in 1844 — and the location was 44th Street near Third Avenue. By 1846 land was bought in 50th Street west of Third Avenue and a frame building with basement erected. The property was sold when the Beekman Hill project was started but the congregation refused to join with the new organization. A new building was then erected at 52d Street and Lexington Avenue in 1862 and the church was in existence until 1887 when the property passed into the hands of the New York City Society, and a Swedish Mission occupied the premises.

CHERRY STREET CHURCH

During the session of the General Conference of 1844 the cornerstone of a chapel was laid in Cherry Street between Clinton and Montgomery. It was originated by some members from Willett Street Church and bore the name "First Mariners' M. E. Church." . . . By 1861 the name is missing from the Conference Minutes — the church had not been successful and there was not sufficient money to support it. The property was sold to Mr. Alanson Briggs for use as a cooper's shop and storage.

NORFOLK STREET CHURCH (Alanson Church)

This church was the successor of Cherry Street Church. A building erected by the Baptists of which Dr. Armitage was pastor was bought through the generosity of Mr. Alanson Briggs; it stood between Broome and Grand Streets and was built of brownstone. . . . In 1880 the property passed into the hands of the New York City Church Extension Society and in 1886 was sold to the Hebrews to be occupied as a Synagogue.

MADISON STREET CHURCH

This Mission came into existence shortly after the sale of the

Norfolk Street Church; it occupied a house at No. 209 with the upper floors being used for the parsonage. The work of this group closed about twenty years later.

FORSYTH STREET CHURCH

Located in the New York East circuit from 1832 to 1837 the new church erected in 1833 became one of the largest of any in the city at that time. By 1872 the roster carried but one hundred names and changes were made to meet the circumstances. Two thirds of the front portion of the building was taken down and tenement houses erected in its place; the remaining third was retained as a house of worship with changed seating plan. Unfortunately the tenements did not rent to advantage and the church's financial burden increased. In 1904 the equity of this property was made available for purchase of the East Side Parish in the organization of the Church of All Nations.

WILLETT STREET CHURCH

Organized in a private home in 1813 and transferred to a schoolroom on Broome Street, the growth of this congregation warranted a church building, but the debt incurred by the rebuilding of John Street Church and the financial embarrassment of the country made such a venture unwise. The church in Willett Street was not built until 1825 but it served the neighborhood until 1905 when the property was transferred to New York East Conference for consolidation with other properties resulting in the organization of the Church of All Nations.

SECOND STREET CHURCH

The labor expended in the early nineteenth century to make New York a logical building site is difficult to imagine to-day. Hollows, salt meadows and ponds were filled in — hills dug down and rocks blasted that the streets on lower Manhattan Island might be as level as possible. On the East River side, north of

Houston Street, were extensive salt meadows and the more elevated spots were occupied by ship builders. . . . But in this vicinity in 1816 prayer and preaching services were held in a carver's shop at the junction of East Houston and Second Streets, and in 1832 a church had been erected on the north side of Second Street between Avenues C and D: — this church continued in existence until change of neighborhood and financial difficulties necessitated its sale in 1913.

SECOND STREET GERMAN CHURCH

The first German Methodist Episcopal Church started their services in a hired room on the corner of Essex and Stanton Streets in 1841 and by the end of that year land was bought and a church dedicated on Second Street near Avenue C. . . . This was the "Mother Church" of the German work in New York. It had many Revivals, furnished useful ministers and was noted for liberality. It merged with Tremont German Mission in 1901.

SEVENTH STREET CHURCH

In 1795 a small building for a combined school and place of worship was built at "Two Mile Stone" or "Bowery Village" in the neighborhood of the present Cooper Institute. (In the early days of New York the miles were measured from the site of the old Federal Hall, corner of Wall and Nassau Streets.) . . . During 1837 a new church was built on adjoining lots on Seventh Street, which served the neighborhood until 1911 when it united with Seventeenth Street Church.

NINTH STREET CHURCH

Preaching services and Sunday School were started under the auspices of "The Ladies' Methodist Home Missionary Society" in rooms over a saloon in East Tenth Street, April 20, 1845; later a substantial brick building was put up on the corner of Ninth Street and Avenue B. It was dedicated January 21, 1847, and named

"THE DRY DOCK M. E. CHURCH." A foreign population was rapidly filling the neighborhood and by 1865 the name disappears from Conference records.

TWENTY-SEVENTH STREET CHURCH

Organized in 1823 as a Sunday School by the New York Female Union Society this project came under Methodist control in 1827, but it was not until 1843 that a church was built on the north side of Twenty-Seventh Street between Second and Third Avenues. . . . On November 19, 1848 the church, parsonage, a public school and other buildings burned to the ground, but a year later the church was rebuilt. . . . It was from this church that the women organized the famous "Rose Hill Soldiers Aid Society" under the presidency of Mrs. Richard B. Kelly Sr., providing aid for the wounded in our military hospitals. From this same church came the teachers for the Colored Orphan Asylum (5th Avenue between 43d and 44th Streets) until it was burned during the draft riots of 1863. . . . The Church united with Crawford Memorial Church of the Bronx in 1917.

Personality Sketches

MRS. MARY W. MASON:

First Directress of the Board of Managers, 1850 to 1857, resigned because of failing health but continued on the Board as Manager until her death in 1868. Mrs. Mason established the first Sunday School in New York held in Tryon Row. She was a member of the Board of Managers of the Lying-In Hospital, the Woman's Hospital, Five Points Mission and the Colored Orphan Asylum. and First Directress of the Female Missionary Society of New York. A painting of Mrs. Mason hangs in the south Red Room of the Home.

REV. THOMAS W. MASON:

The husband of our First Directress began his ministerial work in South Carolina and after filling various Charges in the New York Conference was chosen Agent of the New York Methodist Book Concern (1832) which office he held until his death in 1843 at the age of fifty-seven years.

MRS. C. C. NORTH:

. . . the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Mason, served on the Board until her death in 1893. She was the mother of Dr. Frank Mason North, who became the founder of the Council of Churches, Corresponding Secretary of the New York City Society and Church Extension, secretary of the Methodist Board of Foreign Missions, author of noted hymns including "Where cross the crowded ways of life."

MRS. JOHN ROMER:

Mrs. Romer and her husband lived at 12 St. Luke's Place and both served in executive positions from 1851 until their death. Their son John I. Romer was a member of the Advisory Board from St. Paul's Church for many years. To-day the third generation of this family is represented by a granddaughter, Miss Dorothea H. Romer, a Manager from Highland Avenue Methodist Church, Ossining, N. Y.

MRS. WILLIAM B. THOMPSON:

Treasurer of the Board from 1850 to 1866. A capable executive, it was Mrs. Thompson's personal approach that obtained grants from the New York State Legislature of financial aid to the Home. She was a member of Mulberry Street Church (later St. Paul's) for twenty-six years.

MRS. JOHN A. KENNEDY:

Mrs. Kennedy's name is listed in the Act of Incorporation of the Home, then known as "The Ladies' Union Aid Society" and to this organization she had given nearly fifty years of service when she passed on in 1898. She was the first Recording Secretary and later Corresponding Secretary. She was president of Five Points Mission Board and the first President of St. Christopher's Home.

MR. WILLIAM SEAMAN:

As a member of the Allen Street Church Mr. Seaman donated the lots on which the 42d Street Home was built. He was the father of Rev. Samuel A. Seaman, A. M. writer of the famous "Annals of New York Methodism from 1766 to 1890." He was the grandfather of Judge Alfred P. W. Seaman member of the New York City Bar Association and Trustee of St. Andrew's M. E. Church. The Seaman family were direct descendants of John Seaman, grantee in the 17th century from King James of what was

long known as "The Seaman Patent" – now North Hempstead, L. I.

MR. SAMUEL HALSTEAD and MR. SCHUREMAN HALSTEAD:

These brothers from Allen Street Church stand out in Church history for their constant and untiring efforts to clear heavy indebtedness on the Home during the Civil War years.

MRS. SCHUREMAN HALSTEAD:

This lady was the daughter of Gilbert Coutant, descendant of a French Protestant family who migrated to this country in the 17th Century. He was one of the original Trustees of John Street Church; twice elected to the New York Legislature and was also Registrar of New York. Mrs. Halstead's daughter, Mrs. J. A. Tackaberry, was a member of the Reading Circle and the Board of Managers.

MRS. MADELAINE S. ROGERS:

For thirty years Treasurer of the Board, an associate executive of the Magdalen Asylum, the Indian Association, active in the establishment of St. Christopher's Home, and instrumental in forming a Boys' Club connected with Madison Avenue Church which became Wesley Settlement House. For a short time she was also Treasurer of the New York Deaconess Association.

MR. and MRS. RICHARD B. KELLY:

Mr. Kelly always gave gratuitous legal service to the Home and upon his death his son, Richard Kelly 2d, took over the work. . . . Mrs. Kelly Sr. participated in various Methodist projects and was Treasurer of the Home for seventeen years. During the Civil War she organized and was president of "The Rose Hill Association" connected with hospitals for wounded soldiers. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly

Jr. carried on active service to the Home until Mr. Kelly's death in 1948. Mrs. Kelly is now an Honorary member of the Home Board.

MRS. ELIAS S. OSBON:

Her interest in the Home was fostered from childhood for her mother, Mrs. Mary Atwood, had been appointed to the Board as Manager from Willett Street Church in 1853. As the wife of a minister and a Manager and executive for a period of fifty years, she brought an unusual spirit of understanding to her work. Her lasting monument is the organization of the Reading Circle, which she served as President for many years.

MRS. REBECCA HOLSTEIN:

Once the President of Five Points Mission Board and an active Manager on the Home Board, she became a member of the Family when ninety years of age and passed away eight years later.

THE WENDELL FAMILY:

Numbered for many years as parishioners of St. Paul's Church, their first large gift was made in 1917 when Miss Georgiana Wendell gave the Home $5,000 in memory of her mother, Mrs. Mary Wendell. In 1919 another daughter placed in the Home Permanent Fund $37,000 in New York City Bonds, the income of which brought a generous annual donation. . . . In 1931 upon the passing of Mrs. Rebecca Wendell Swope the Home shared with other Methodist institutions in the estate. The original bequest was sizeable but through the expenses of litigation (for many heretofore unknown relatives put in claims) the amount received by the Home was very much less than the amount publicized. . . . The final settlement found the Home owners of several pieces of city realty and the recipient of cash payments annually by the Wendell Foundation until the original bequests — *drastically reduced* — would be finally paid.

The Lounge

The Quilting Group

A Show Case Sale

The Music Box

Jennie Tries Out the New Laundry Equipment

A Scene in the Infirmary

MRS. PAUL QUATTLANDER:

. . . widow of Rev. Paul Quattlander of Tremont German M. E. Church served as Manager for twenty-three years and was the representative of the various German Church groups. Her daughter, Miss Nellie Quattlander, continues the work and is a Manager from Elton Avenue Church.

MRS. STEPHEN BARKER:

Member of the first Board of Managers of the Home representing Madison Street M. E. Church. Her grandson, Mr. George B. Hodgman, chairman of the present Investment Committee, is a valued member of the Advisory Board. His wife was the daughter of Dr. A. E. M. Purdy for twenty-six years consulting physician for the Home.

MRS. WILLIAM T. RANDOLPH:

A member of the Board of Managers for over forty years representing Washington Heights M. E. Church and later Broadway Temple. Her devotion to the Home was outstanding and her son Wendell continues support of the work.

MRS. ALEXANDER CARMICHEL:

She became a Manager in 1908, was elected Corresponding Secretary in 1911 and 1st Vice-President in 1919. In June 1925 she became President to fill the unexpired term of her close friend, Mrs. G. Waldo Smith. Serving this office for six months, Mrs. Carmichel died suddenly after three days' illness, leaving the Board and her family deeply grieved. Her husband, Alexander Carmichel, was a prominent layman in New York Conference representing Union M. E. Church and also a member of the Home Advisory Board.

MRS. WILLIAM BARROW:

When Mrs. Barrow left us in January, 1948 in her 90th year, she had been a member of the Board from Trinity and Mt. Vernon First M. E. Churches covering fifty years of service to the Family; her daughter, Mrs. Theodore Price, continues this work from the latter Church.

MR. and MRS. HENRY PFEIFFER:

The philanthropies of these two famed Methodists have fed the hungry, educated thousands of young people of every race and color, housed the aged, and spread Christian aid most generously throughout this country and in the foreign field. They are remembered with deep affection by both Managers and Family of the Methodist Church Home of New York.

MR. WILLIAM J. STITT:

A prominent layman of New York Conference Mr. Stitt's interest in Methodism began as a Sunday School boy in John Street Church. His official connection included being Trustee of Drew University, member of the Board of Managers of the Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn and the New York City Society, as well as Advisory Director of the Methodist Home for Aged. He was also Chairman of the Investment Committee, Board of Foreign Missions. He was a delegate to the General Conferences of 1916, 1920, 1924 and 1928.

MISS MARY L. WALKER:

Miss Walker and her brother Thomas were Trustees of Calvary M. E. Church, and personally interested in the work of the Home; their financial aid was most generous. Miss Walker was an officer of the Haarlem Philharmonic Society and The Sorosis, New York's oldest Womens' Club. She was also former vice-president of the

Rutgers Female College from which she graduated when it was located at 56 West 55th Street, New York.

MRS. JOHN EDGAR LEAYCRAFT:

Mrs. Leaycraft (Caroline Crawford) was a Manager of the Home for many years and Corresponding Secretary until her death in 1921. Her father, Rev. M. D. C. Crawford, was a member of New York Conference and served as Secretary of the meeting held in the Mission Rooms, May 31, 1850, when the Constitution for this Home was adopted. His fifty-two years service in the Conference followed that of his father, Joseph Crawford, an early member of the itinerant ministry.... Mrs. Leaycraft joined the Board of Five Points Mission as a young girl, served the Womens' Foreign Missionary Society, was a member of the Board of the New York Deaconess Association, and attended all General Conference sessions to which her husband was a delegate. She visited missions in India, Burma, China and Japan with Mr. Leaycraft, was an official member of the Hospitality Committee of the Ecumenical Missionary Conference held in New York in 1900 and with her husband attended the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh in 1910. . . . During forty years membership in Madison Avenue Church (now Christ Church) she met every demand of time and talent in that Church's local interests. . . . She not only shared the work and responsibility with the group of able women who administered the Home in that period, but enjoyed their lasting friendship.

CARL HITCHCOCK FOWLER:

Mr. Fowler was an interested member of the Advisory Committee of the Home for thirty-six years. He was President of the Board of Christ Church for twenty-one years — President of the Laymens Association of New York Conference — Trustee of Drew Seminary for Young Women, member of the Board of New York Deaconess Association and New York City Society and several times a delegate to General Conference. . . . The drinking fountain at the

entrance to the Home dining room was his gift in tribute to his parents, Bishop Charles H. Fowler and Myra H. Fowler.

MRS. JENNIE G. JUDD:

As a Manager on the Board from Calvary Church from 1909 to 1931, Mrs. Judd served faithfully and efficiently in the offices of Associate Secretary, Treasurer and second Vice-President.

MRS. DAVID D. FORSYTH:

Myra Clark Forsyth was born in Champaign, Illinois and later the family home was established in Sutton, Nebraska. She graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1889 and became the wife of Rev. David D. Forsyth in 1893. Dr. Forsyth later became the head of the Board of Home Missions of the M. E. Church with headquarters in Philadelphia, Pa. Her interests in church organizations was broad and varied and she was most active in the work of the Home. . . . She served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Woman's Home Missionary Society until her death in 1944.

JAMES C. FORSYTH:

As we go to press we learn with sorrow of the sudden passing of the son of Dr. and Mrs. D. D. Forsyth at the age of forty-nine years. He was a member of the Advisory Board of the Home and had given valued assistance as secretary of the Investment Committee.

MRS. SAMUEL WILLIAMS:

Endowed with a brilliant personality and the gift for devoted service to organizations of the Methodist Church, Mrs. Harriet Stitt Williams was a Manager and Executive Committee member of the Home for nineteen years. . . . During the Diamond Jubilee she was Chairman of Organization and a member of the Furnishing and Purchasing Committees. The attractive furnishings of the

Home are a testimonial to her impeccable taste and the meticulous attention always given to the most minute detail. . . . The guest Room on the Main Floor, fully equipped, was her personal gift to the new building. . . . Mrs. Williams was also a Conference officer in the Woman's Home Missionary Society and a member of the Boards of the New York Deaconess Association and Alma Matthews House.

MR. HARRY E. JAMES:

With Mr. Gustave Pfeiffer, brother of Henry Pfeiffer, Mr. James was Trustee of the Pfeiffer Estate and also served on the Advisory Board of the Home, as a valued consultant. Always unassuming, he exemplified Christian service at its highest.

DR. MILLARD LYMAN ROBINSON:

As a member of the Advisory Board, the Investment and Real Estate Committees, Dr. Robinson was untiring in his work for the Home. . . . He was Chaplain of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, second Vice-President and Trustee of the New York Historical Society, and a member of the Board of Directors of the New York Federation of Churches. . . . He went from the pastorate of Hedding Church in East 17th Street in New York City to be Executive Secretary of the New York City Society, 1914-1930, and was General Secretary of the New York Bible Society from 1930 until shortly before his death in 1947.

MRS. NANA FRANCES HOLMES:

The dramatic and musical gifts of "Nana Frances" will long be remembered by the Family and friends of the Home, for she was generous in giving unusual programs during the years she served as Manager of the Board from First Methodist Church, Yonkers, N. Y. She headed many groups who frequently gave time and talent to entertain our Aged.

MR. GEORGE B. HODGMAN:

On June 9th another loss occurred in the ranks of the Advisory Board when George Barker Hodgman passed away at the age of eighty-three years. Mr. Hodgman was the oldest parishioner of Christ Church, of which he had been a Trustee for forty-two years; oldest Trustee of the Drydock Savings Bank with thirty-two years there and a member of the New York State Chamber of Commerce for fifty-two years. He was also a Trustee of Drew University and member of the Union League Club, New England Society, and the Seventh Regiment.

MRS. JOSEPH M. TOTTON:

As a Manager from Grace Church and later St. Paul's, Mrs. Totton (Mary King Proud) took a very personal interest in the Family. Her cheerful enthusiasm made her a successful leader of young people and she organized the Junior Reading Circle, which adopted her name and became the "Mary K. Totton Circle" after her passing. In addition, she was Director of Music for all Chapel church services and Prayer Meetings . . . Her sister, Mrs. J. Courtney Talley, while not a member of the Board, was always a generous subscriber . . . Mrs. Totton's son, Mr. Frank M. Totton, is a valued member of our Advisory Board.

Officers

of the Methodist Church Home, 1950

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Mrs. CARL H. FOWLER, Sr.....78 Watson Avenue, East Orange, N. J.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. MILLARD L. ROBINSON.....880 Fifth Avenue, 21

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Mrs. CHARLES F. MERRITT.....790 Riverside Drive, 32

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Mrs. ARTHUR F. ADAMS.....1010 Fifth Avenue, 28

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT

Mrs. WILBUR J. RASH...Colchester Hall, Garth Road, Scarsdale, N. Y.

FOURTH VICE-PRESIDENT

Mrs. RALPH M. HOUSTON.....397 North Broadway, Yonkers, N. Y.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Mrs. HERMAN C. DOCHTERMANN, 246 Cleveland Av., Mineola, N. Y.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Mrs. FREDERIC P. GUTEKUNST..4 Park Lane, Mount Vernon, N. Y.

TREASURER

Mrs. HARRY E. JAMES.....180 Riverside Drive, 24

ASSOCIATE TREASURER

Mrs. JENNIE L. COMERFORD.....427 Fort Washington Avenue, 33

Mrs. HUBERT D. JONES.....House Director

Miss ALICE I. LEONARD.....Assistant House Director

Mrs. HERBERT R. HAHN.....Housekeeper and Dietitian

Mrs. CHARLES F. HUNT, R. N.....Head of Nursing Staff

Advisory Board

BISHOP G. BROMLEY OXNAM.....150 Fifth Avenue
Mr. ARTHUR F. ADAMS.....1010 Fifth Avenue
Mr. NORMAN C. ANDREW.....28 Alameda Place, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
Mr. WALTER M. ANDREW.....2300 Loring Place
Mr. JOHN C. BEILHARZ.....681 Eagle Avenue
Mr. LEIGH A. BROWN.....815 Park Avenue
Mr. ROBERT W. COURTNEY.....76 Perry Street
Mr. WILLIAM CUMMING.....790 Riverside Drive
Mr. ROBERT CURTISS.....50 Alden Avenue, Crestwood, N. Y.
Dr. WALTER T. DANNREUTHER.....580 Park Avenue
Mr. HERMAN C. DOCHTERMANN, 246 Cleveland Av., Mineola, N. Y.
Mr. GEORGE E. FERGUSON.....233 Broadway
Mr. JAMES C. FORSYTH.....620 Fifth Avenue
Mr. CARL H. FOWLER, Jr.....78 Watson Avenue, East Orange, N. J.
Mr. ROBERT E. HILL.....4610 Delafield Avenue (63)
Mr. GEORGE B. HODGMAN.....630 Fifth Avenue
Rev. RALPH M. HOUSTON, D.D.....150 Fifth Avenue
Mr. LOUIS KILMARX.....179 East 79th Street
Mr. EDGAR C. LEAYCRAFT.....50 East 42nd Street
Mr. BENJAMIN A. MATTHEWS.....131 Riverside Drive
Dr. FRANK L. MELENEY.....4515 Waldo Avenue
Mr. CHARLES F. MERRITT.....790 Riverside Drive
Rev. FREDERICK B. NEWELL, D.D.....150 Fifth Avenue
Mr. ELLIS L. PHILLIPS.....50 Church Street
Mr. E. CRANFORD STUCKLESS.20 Woodland Terrace, Yonkers, N. Y.
Mr. GEORGE THOMPSON.....1924 Loring Place
Mr. FRANK M. TOTTON.....18 Pine Street

Mrs. JOHN C. BEILHARZ.....Organist
Mrs. GEORGE J. McINDOE.....Organist
Mrs. FRANK N. McCLURE.....Historian

Mr. MATTHEW G. HEROLD.....Counsel
WILLIS S. KNIGHTON, M.D.....Eye and Ear Specialist
VICTOR STERN, M.D.....Physician
JOHN GRAHAM AND SON.....Funeral Directors

Managers for 1950

MANHATTAN AND BRONX

BROADWAY TEMPLE-WASHINGTON HEIGHTS CHURCH

Mrs. Ernest W. Benoit.....1514 Unionport Road, Bronx, 62
Mrs. Allen E. Claxton.....636 West 174th Street, 33
Mrs. Jennie L. Comerford.....427 Fort Washington Avenue, 33
Mrs. John L. Culberson.....447 Fort Washington Avenue, 33
Mrs. Herbert B. Dawson.....765 Riverside Drive, 32
Mrs. Gertrude E. Hagenbuck..Hudson View Gardens, Pinehurst Ave., 33
Mrs. Frank N. McClure.....19 Cumming Street, 34
*Mrs. Charles F. Merritt.....790 Riverside Drive, 32
Mrs. Donald C. Portser.....1 Haven Avenue, 32
Mrs. George N. Radliff..15 Jetland Street, Black Rock, Bridgeport, Conn.
Mrs. Jere B. Rogers.....825 West 187th Street, 33
Mrs. J. Van Cleve Shelley.....614 West 146th Street, 31
Mrs. Helen S. Tarkington.....1410 Parkchester Road, Bronx, 62
Mrs. George Thompson.....1924 Loring Place, 53
Mrs. Louis H. Wagner.....615 West 183rd Street, 33

CALVARY CHURCH

Mrs. Richard M. Andrew.....230 West 79th Street, 24
Mrs. Forris E. Chick.....4430 Tibbett Avenue, Fieldston, 63
Mrs. Harry Fenton.....64 West 176th Street, 33
Mrs. William Grant.....2470 University Avenue, 53
Mrs. H. C. Greenland.....2293 Sedgwick Avenue, 53
Mrs. Paul M. Grimm.....1920 Loring Place, 53
Mrs. Robert J. McNair.....1776 Sedgwick Avenue, 53
*Mrs. Charles Quentin.....1883 Sedgwick Avenue, 53

CHRIST CHURCH

Mrs. Edgar Ashman.....440 Riverside Drive, 25
Mrs. Mark A. Dawber.....111 Delaware Avenue, Long Beach, N. Y.
Mrs. Herman C. Dennison.....1230 Park Avenue, 28
Mrs. J. Wells Dimmock.....545 West 236th Street, 63
Mrs. Thomas S. Donohugh.....114 East 71st Street, 21

*Mrs. Carl H. Fowler, Sr.....78 Watson Avenue, East Orange, N. J.
Mrs. Carl H. Fowler, Jr.....78 Watson Avenue, East Orange, N. J.
Mrs. Lee H. Hill.....78 Elton Road, Stewart Manor, L. I.
Mrs. Wallace MacMullen.....3681 Broadway, 31
Mrs. Frank L. Meleney.....4515 Waldo Avenue, Fieldston, 63
Mrs. Aura E. Severinghaus.....375 West 250th Street, Fieldston, 63
Mrs. Harry C. Simone.....Wellington Farms, West Coran, L. I.
Mrs. Clayton Snyder.....Hotel Beverly, 22
Mrs. S. S. Wright.....270 Park Avenue, Apt. 7D, 17

THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL AND ST. ANDREW

Mrs. Arthur F. Adams.....1010 Fifth Avenue, 28
Mrs. F. Howard Callahan.....550 West End Avenue, 24
Miss Florence A. Carmichel.....390 West End Avenue, 24
*Miss Florence E. Clements.....390 West End Avenue, 24
Mrs. Walter T. Dannreuther.....580 Park Avenue, 21
Mrs. Herbert G. Davenport.....175 Riverside Drive, 24
Mrs. Frank Firor.....606 West 116th Street, 27
Mrs. Robert C. Henry.....425 Riverside Drive, 25
Mrs. Harry E. James.....180 Riverside Drive, 24
Mrs. Walter W. McNeil.....1120 Fifth Avenue, 28
Mrs. Millard L. Robinson.....880 Fifth Avenue, 21
Mrs. Jay S. Stowell.....400 West 118th Street, 27
Mrs. R. Henry Vance.....195 Claremont Avenue, 27
Miss Clara Wells.....Hudson View Gardens, Pinehurst Ave., 33
Mrs. Charles G. Wilson.....790 Riverside Drive, 32

CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR

*Mrs. William Reamy.....160 East 108th Street, 29

CRAWFORD MEMORIAL

Mrs. George Bauer.....834 Chestnut Street, Bronx, 67
*Mrs. George A. Crump.....672 East 219th Street, 67

ELTON AVENUE CHURCH

Mrs. Charles T. Ganns.....91—8th Street, New Rochelle, N. Y.
*Miss Nellie Quattlander.....2985 Botanical Square 58

* Indicates key woman in each Church

FORDHAM CHURCH

Mrs. William Anagnost.....2995 Botanical Square, 58
Mrs. George A. Bagge.....25 East 193rd Street, 58
Mrs. Charles C. Cole.....2543 Marion Avenue, 58
Mrs. Paul Haerdtner.....2567 Decatur Avenue, 58
Miss Edith L. Jones.....Box 125, Three Bridges, N. J.
*Miss M. Jessie Lohn.....2632 Decatur Avenue, 58
Mrs. John Pero.....3098 Decatur Avenue, 67
Miss Mary A. Wright.....307 Ansbro Place, Bellmore, L. I.

GRACE CHURCH

*Mrs. Harry E. Cook.....430 West 118th Street, 27
Mrs. Walter H. Williams.....152 Edgemont Road, Scarsdale, N. Y.

JOHN STREET CHURCH

Mrs. Gertrude Guest.....331 East 31st Street, 16
Mrs. Henry H. Meyer.....21 Claremont Avenue, 27
*Mrs. Arthur B. Moss.....185 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn, 5

METROPOLITAN-DUANE CHURCH

*Mrs. Robert W. Courtney.....76 Perry Street, 14
Mrs. Charles E. Nagel.....125 West 12th Street

PARK AVENUE CHURCH

Miss Mary L. Halstead.....128 East 78th Street, 21
*Miss Winifred E. Howe.....155 East 93rd Street, 28
Mrs. Paul R. Russell.....525 East 89th Street, 28
Mrs. E. Boardman Sanchez....."Westwood" R.F.D. 2, Bethel, Conn.
Mrs. Stanley Schultz.....212 Hollywood Avenue, Crestwood, N. Y. 7

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

Miss Janet MacNair.....4342 Kepler Avenue, 66
*Mrs. William Schneider.....63 Glover Avenue, Yonkers, 4

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Dr. Lucia Edson.....21 Ft. Charles Place
Mrs. Elsie Johnston.....1 Marble Hill Avenue, 63

* Indicates key woman in each Church

Mrs. Rudolph Kaeufer.....95 Park Terrace East, 63
Miss Estelle Mead.....3088 Heath Avenue
Mrs. Arthur Reardon.....231 West 230th Street, 63
*Mrs. William Symons.....3021 Valentine Avenue, 58
Mrs. Ethel K. Watson.....95 Park Terrace East, 63

TREMONT-WESLEY CHURCH

Mrs. John C. Beilharz.....681 Eagle Avenue, 55
Miss Mary W. Church.....925 Union Avenue, 59
*Miss Ella L. Combes.....1819 Topping Avenue, 57
Mrs. Herman C. Dochtermann....246 Cleveland Avenue, Mineola, N. Y.
Mrs. Hugh J. Kirkland.....1625 Undercliff Avenue, 53
Mrs. Frank O. Kompass.....205 East 176th Street, 57
Mrs. Edith Graham Littman.....80 Riverside Drive, 24
Mrs. Charles A. Pratt.....657 Jefferson Place, 56
Miss Edna M. Randall.....1819 Topping Avenue, 57
Mrs. Wm. J. Steenson.....419 East 179th Street, 57

TRINITY CHURCH, CITY ISLAND

*Mrs. Frank Cole.....36 Tier Street, City Island, N. Y., 67

UNITED CHURCH OF VAN NEST

*Mrs. Charles Hendrickson.....4150 Boyd Avenue, 66
Mrs. Edwin Jackamiet.....1849 Holland Avenue, 60

WASHINGTON SQUARE CHURCH

Mrs. Lewis E. Christian.....142 Bentley Street, Staten Island, 7
*Miss Mary Courtney.....30 Fifth Avenue
Mrs. Joseph G. Reichert.....44 Jane Street, 14
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Mrs. F. H. Williams.....Bedford Road, Katonah, N. Y.

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